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PROCESS FOR MAKING ORNAMENTAL DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

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7/16/05

[0001] This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 10/051,484, entitled "ORNAMENTAL DEVICE," filed on January 18, 2002, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to three-dimensional decorative devices created from sheet material, and more particularly to three-dimensional decorative devices created from flat sheet material which are suspended or mounted to allow rotation of the decorative device, and to a process for making a decorative three-dimensional device from a flat sheet of material.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Various three-dimensional decorative objects have been created from sheet material. Such objects have included artificial trees, Christmas tree ornaments, and other devices.

[0004] The artificial trees are generally comprised of a circular sheet of material that is spirally cut and vertically deformed to create a helical structure that bears some resemblance to a conically-shaped tree. Examples of this type of structure are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,048,590 and 5,336,536.

[0005] A variation of the basic conical helix tree is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,139,168, which discloses bridges that maintain a predetermined spacing between portions of the helical strip forming the tree. While each of the artificial trees described in these patents could conceivably be mounted for rotation, they are not adapted for rotational mounting and would not likely be expected to provide an interesting visual effect if they were rotated.

[0006] Other somewhat more elaborate structures constructed from flat sheet material are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,200,656 B1 (Tsang) and 4,746,022 (Benham). The Tsang patent describes an artificial tree having a central disc-shaped member, a plurality of vertically spaced apart annular rings connected to the central disc-shaped member, and a plurality of connecting strips that connect each of the vertically spaced apart annular rings to an adjacent annular ring. The Benham patent describes a three-dimensional support structure that may be either free standing or adapted to be hung from an overhead support. The structure includes a plurality of